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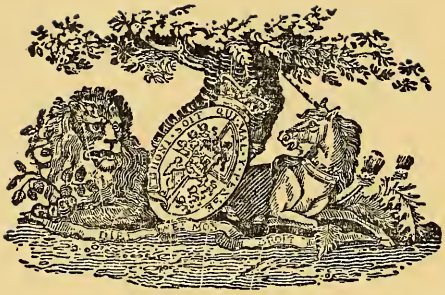
Chester County
and
William Darlington
(1782-1863)

Many-sided Genius

HENRY PLEASANTS, JR.



"Were American Newcomen to do naught else, our work is well done if we succeed in sharing with America a strengthened inspiration to continue the struggle towards a nobler Civilization— through wider knowledge and understanding of the hopes, ambitions, and deeds of leaders in the past who have upheld Civilization's material progress. As we look backward, let us look forward."

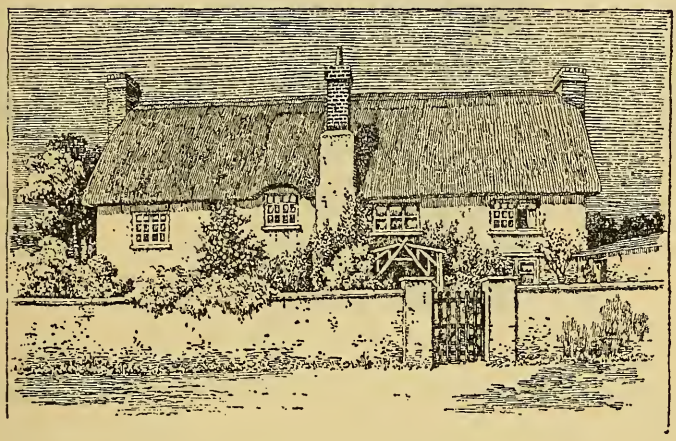
—CHARLES PENROSE
Senior Vice-President for North America
The Newcomen Society of England

This statement, crystallizing a broad purpose of the Society, was first read at the Newcomen Meeting at New York World's Fair on August 5, 1939, when American Newcomen were guests of The British Government

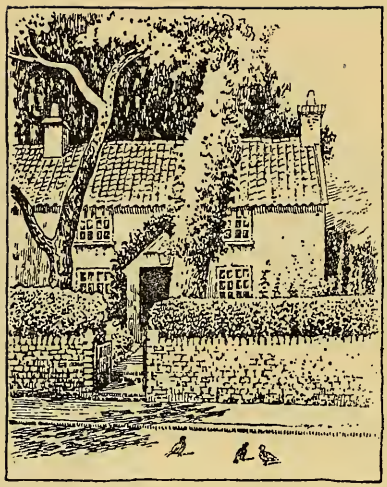
"Actorum Memores simul affectamus Agenda"

CHESTER COUNTY *and* WILLIAM DARLINGTON *(1782-1863)*

Many-sided Genius



AMERICAN NEWCOMEN, *through the years, has honored important anniversaries of numerous communities in the United States of America and in Canada; and has honored the memories of men whose vision and pioneer efforts in many fields enriched their communities. Such a Newcomen manuscript is this dealing with fertile Chester County in the rolling countryside of eastern Pennsylvania, and dealing with the many-sided genius of one of its pioneers and most noted citizens: William Darlington (1782-1863), who grew up among the hills and valleys, the meadows and streams, the farms and woods of one of the most historic and most beautiful farming sections of all America!*



Chester County and its county seat of West Chester are celebrating this year the 150th Anniversary of the founding, in 1799, of the latter, which first was known as Turk's Head. This is the countryside where William Penn, Proprietor of the Province of Pennsylvania (Penn's Woods), rode so often and loved so well. This is the countryside where Washington fought: at Valley Forge, in the Battle of the Brandywine, and elsewhere. This is the countryside where colonial forges and iron works sprang up, near to hillsides and streams, near to ore deposits and limestone, and near to timber and wood for fuel. The great Dr. Benjamin Franklin had his famous Franklin Stoves made in Chester County, at historic Warwick Furnace. From early colonial times, Chester County has taken proud part in America's history!

Chester County
and
William Darlington
(1782-1863)
Many-sided Genius

HENRY PLEASANTS, JR., M.D., F.A.C.P.

MEMBER OF THE NEWCOMEN SOCIETY
FORMER VICE-PRESIDENT
CHESTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
WEST CHESTER
PENNSYLVANIA

THE NEWCOMEN SOCIETY IN NORTH AMERICA
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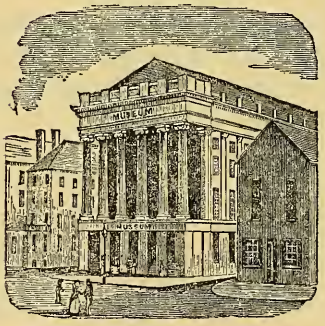


This Newcomen Address, dealing with Chester County and William Darlington (1782-1863), was delivered at the "1949 Chester County Luncheon" of The Newcomen Society of England, at which Dr. Pleasants was the guest of honor, held at West Chester Golf & Country Club, at West Chester, Chester County, Pennsylvania, U.S.A., on September 14, 1949

SET UP, PRINTED AND BOUND IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FOR THE NEWCOMEN PUBLICATIONS IN NORTH AMERICA BY PRINCETON UNIVERSITY PRESS

"This informal narrative of eastern Pennsylvania takes as its central figure WILLIAM DARLINGTON, M.D., a native of Chester County, farmer, physician, soldier, banker, statesman, and distinguished scientist."

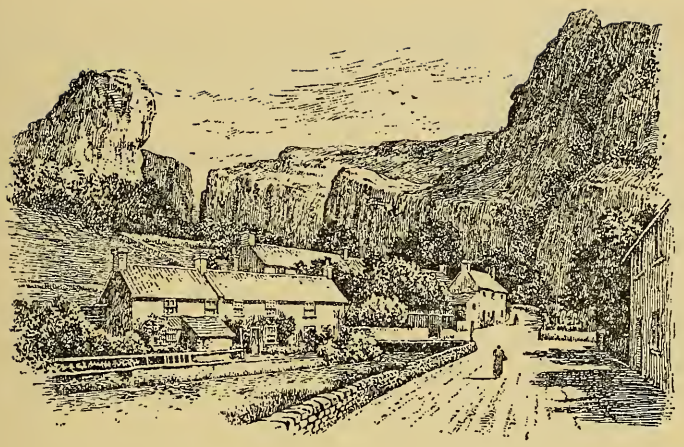
—HENRY PLEASANTS, JR.

APR 1 1 1969

Biographical Sketch of The Author

Its rolling hills, with their wooded streams and tumbling waterfalls and broad meadows, so often likened to the famed Cotswold Hills and uplands in the west Midlands of Old England where fox hunting has flourished during long centuries and where Captain Robert Dover (1575-1641) founded, in the 17th Century, the once famous Cotswold games—here in America, these rolling hills and the superb beauty of its valleys and streams mark Chester County as a land where the best of British traditions were set down among fertile acres by its Quaker founder, William Penn. Title to much of the fields still springs from original grants from Penn. True also of America's Chester County might be a time-honored English adage: "As sure as God is in Gloucestershire," referring to the number and wealth of abbeys and churches among the Cotswolds. HENRY PLEASANTS, *M.D., F.A.C.P., was fortunate in being born in Chester County and to live all his life there. He has written much of Chester County; and he writes now of its early history, in this very human Newcomen manuscript. Graduate of Haverford College, in the Class of 1906, he took his M.D. at the University of Pennsylvania in 1910. During nearly 40 years he has engaged in the general practice of medicine, at West Chester. Is a staff member both of the Chester County Hospital and of the Bryn Mawr Hospital. Has served as Medical Director of Pennsylvania State Teachers College. During 30 years he has engaged in writing. Was a Major in United States Army Medical Corps, during First World War, in the A.E.F., as Surgeon of 308th Infantry; now Lieutenant Colonel, Medical Reserves. Awarded Victory Medal and 2 stars; Order of the Purple Heart. Fellow of the American College of Physicians. Is identified with leading medical, learned, and historical bodies. Physician, author, historian, good citizen, Dr. Pleasants is a Vice-Chairman of the Chester County Committee, in The Newcomen Society of England.*

HIS MARK



My fellow members of Newcomen:

In celebrating the Sesqui-Centennial Anniversary of the official erection, or establishment, or creation of the Borough of West Chester, in Pennsylvania, and its historic Chester County, it is appropriate for us to select *one individual* who, if not the activating spirit in creating this independent county, was at least the man most responsible for the greatest number of important elements upon which this Borough of West Chester, and Chester County have depended during the past century. This great individual was William Darlington, M.D., a native son of Chester County, farmer, physician, soldier, banker, statesman, and distinguished scientist.

It will be well, first of all, to consider the factors which were directly responsible for the division of the original Chester County, which, at the time of William Penn, included what now is Delaware County. The County seat of justice was, very obviously, the most important town, namely Chester, a center of mercantile trade on the navigable Delaware River; an important stopping point along the North-South stage route, and within easy carriage or horseback journey of Philadelphia, the capital of the Province of Pennsylvania.

It is easy to understand why the merchants and tavern keepers of Chester would be unfavorable towards the sudden withdrawal of the lucrative trade of a full half of the county by reason of the establishment of a *new* seat of justice, some twenty miles inland. Human nature is still human nature; and the removal of a source of revenue is seldom welcomed with enthusiasm, even by the staid disciples of William Penn, the Quaker. So we find that, although shortly after the close of the American Revolution, in 1786, there were definitive efforts made to bring about the division of old Chester County, the movement met with violent opposition on the part of the Chester contingent. While it was dropped temporarily, the actual issue itself remained very much alive. There were many excellent reasons for this, chief of which may have been the reluctance of the citizens of the bucolic areas near the Brandywine Creek and of the Chester Valley to negotiate *some twenty miles* on foot, or horseback, in gigs or farm wagons, to attend to official duties in connection with the county government; or to register deeds; or answer summons, or serve on juries. Even the best of roads in those days were mere trails, or, as some were called, "traces." Incidentally, the word "trace" was uncommonly descriptive of those roads, because, in point of fact they were merely *traces* of roads. In spite of the opposition, the county seat of old Chester County was removed in 1786 from the town of Chester to Turks Head.

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Moreover, Delaware County was set off from Chester County in the year 1789. The important official procedure went through without a hitch, much to the delight of the citizens of the new Chester County in general, and the citizens of Turks Head in particular, as this hamlet, at the almost exact center of the new county, and at the intersection of the Wilmington-Pottstown Road with the Philadelphia and Strasburg Road as well as with one or two minor roads, had been selected as the official county seat. Their delight was expressed in changing the name of "*Turk's Head*" to "*West Chester*," which was incorporated as a borough in 1799, thirteen years after it had begun to function as the county seat.

The citizens of the town of Chester felt less enthusiastic on all counts. Also, as if to add insult to injury, the name of their own beloved county had been changed to "Delaware," possibly because of the location on the banks of the river of that name. They not only registered a vehement protest officially, but actually organized an armed mob, and journeyed to the new seat of justice with not only wrath but also a small cannon or two, insisting that they intended to tear down the already partly erected court house.

It is possible that the belligerent Cestrians were under the impression that the influence of pacifistic Quakers would bring about complete capitulation without bloodshed or even hostile demonstration. If so, they guessed uncommonly badly. By the time they reached the outskirts of West Chester, Colonel John B. Hannum, who had distinguished himself as an officer in the American Revolution, had organized a defense unit of resolute bucolics; armed them with muskets, fowling pieces, and rifles; had laid in a goodly stock of provisions against siege; and had barricaded them in the new seat of justice with all the shutters nailed shut. Just to make things perfect, a fair sized cannon, loaded to the muzzle with bullets, scrap-iron, and anything lethal available, was mounted at a strategic point ready for action.

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Diplomatic relations seemed considerably strained at this point. The invaders saw enough to convince them that a "cooling off" period was advisable. They adjourned in good order to the "common," some rods North of the bastion, and invited negotiations. Colonel Hannum reluctantly agreed; although this old war-horse was probably just getting warmed up for something interesting in the line of mayhem.

The party was getting along pretty well for a while when some Irish cohort of the Chester contingent made a derogatory remark to one of the defenders. Unfortunately for him he was given no chance to apologize before he expired suddenly. For a time it seemed as if the hostilities were going to be renewed.

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At this point, some brilliant intellect—probably among the paci-

fistic disciples of William Penn living in the controversial locale—realized that the visitors from afar might be thirsty after their long trek. Also, it was recalled that nothing is more conducive to amicable discussion of any problem than some beverage other than spring water. Just what the hospitable ones produced on the spur of the moment deponent sayeth not; but the accurate historical records show that the beverage came in casks—*several* of them. Forthwith the embattled legions fell to with cottony mouths.

Exactly what happened seems to be a question. This is understandable to anyone who has enjoyed the hospitality of some residents of Chester County, today, who pride themselves upon their accomplishments in dealing with apple and corn, and whose ancestors dealt convincingly and expertly also with such grains as rye and barley.

At least, it is historically true that within an astonishingly short space of time the rugged individualists of the newly created county and the aggrieved Cestrians from the shores of the (then) limpid Delaware became blood brethren to the tune of "*Roll Out the Barrel,*" or hymns to that effect. Hostilities were called off, and both sides eventually recovered from that extraordinary military engagement of American history, known as "*The Battle of The Kegs.*"

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We have not said a word as yet about William Darlington. He enters the West Chester scene right at this point, so we have done him no injustice.

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William Darlington was born in 1782; hence was a little too young to serve in the American Revolution. This was unfortunate, and was probably a great disappointment to him in view of the fact that he had an active part in nearly every other incident of major proportions during the period of greater importance in the development of West Chester, Chester County, and the United States of America.

He was born and raised on his father's farm. He was birthright

member of The Society of Friends, although as a pacifistic Quaker he was scarcely an outstanding success. Certainly he did not work at that occupation sufficiently to attract notice in the community.

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He was, however, even as a boy, intensely interested in flowers and in all other plants. He spent most of his spare time reading every scientific book on the subject upon which he could get his hands. His knowledge of plants and herbs stood him in good stead in later years when he entered the medical school of the University of Pennsylvania. In those unenlightened days, physicians devoted considerable time to the compounding of remedies from medicinal herbs. It was something of a chore for the local disciple of Aesculapius to prepare an effective remedy for Madam Gotrox' ailments. In her case, the remedy must not be too effective lest a lucrative source of income be lost; in the case of the impecunious neurotic, it must be sufficiently loathsome to the palate to discourage unnecessary calls; in the case of the average busy bucolic, it must actually hasten recovery as well as be unappetizing. Usually, the ailing man of the house got well or died in self-defense!

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Seriously speaking, however, the practice of the healing art of those days was dependent largely upon the skill of the physician in recognizing the symptoms of a given disease through the intelligent utilization of his senses of smell, sight, taste, hearing, and touch, coupled with certain inherent qualities of personal character, such as patience, perserverance, and positiveness. Today, such senses and qualities in the practitioner are entirely superfluous. They are supplanted by the crackling tube of the roentgenological department and the Bunsen burner of the laboratory. As to the personal compounding of medicinal extracts from herbs, such antediluvian procedures have been supplanted by the hypodermic needle, the gelatine capsule, and the compressed tablet. Time marches on!

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William Darlington was the *first* Chester County citizen to obtain the degree of Doctor of Medicine from the University of

Pennsylvania. This in itself stamps him as being above-the-average hinterland bucolic; but he went still farther and was directly responsible for the organization of the Chester County Medical Society of which he was the first President, in the year 1828.

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Lest time hang too heavily on his hands from a scientific standpoint, Dr. Darlington served as a trustee of the West Chester Academy for over fifty years, and collaborated with his friend, David Townsend, in developing the latter's famous Herbarium, which won him international fame and the distinction of having a genus of plant, *Townsendia Servicea*, named in his honor by Sir William Jackson Hooker, and described in Hooker's "*Flora of North America.*"

In this connection, it is important to call attention to the fact that William Darlington's own books, "*Flora Cestrica*" and "*Florula Cestrica*" are to this day classics in the field of Botany.

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One would suppose that the active practice of Medicine, coupled with the scientific hobby of Botany, would have been sufficient to satisfy the active mind of a Chester County farm lad of the early part of this century. However, when the invasion of his beloved homeland by the British seemed imminent, in 1815, we find him casting aside his Quaker pacifistic principles and organizing a battalion of militia, of which he became the commanding officer as major—not in a medical capacity either, but as an infantry officer.

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We find, also, that our friend of many facets was not content to sit back and criticize those who were endeavoring to organize and run the "government of the people, by the people, and for the people." He entered the political field, and served no less than three terms in the U.S. Congress as Representative, during which period he vigorously resisted the extension of slavery in America.

My distinguished fellow members of The Newcomen Society, representing for the most part financial institutions, will probably

be especially interested in the fact that it was only fifteen years after the erection of the new Chester County that the necessity for *a bank* of some kind became apparent.

It was appropriate that William Darlington, M.D. should be elected a member of the first Board of Directors of The Bank of Chester County, in 1814, although his subscription of £10 was comparatively small. However, he was by no means a wealthy man.

It is very significant, on the other hand, that he should serve uninterruptedly on that board of directors until 1863, in the meantime having served as President of that bank from 1830, *for 33 consecutive years.*

When we say "significant" we use the term advisedly, because in the period during which he served as President, the bank weathered the storms of the two major Panics of 1837 and 1857.

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One incident is interesting: It was a custom of Dr. Darlington, as President, to carry personally to Philadelphia the paper issues of other banks in good standing which had accumulated in his own bank, and exchange them for the paper of The Bank of Chester County. On December 3, 1847, Dr. Darlington had made such an exchange to the amount of $50,000.00 He was carrying the notes in a small trunk. As he entered the car of the railroad train, his attention was diverted for a moment, and the trunk vanished! Prompt action was taken by the Bank, with the offer of a reward of $5000 for the recovery of the stolen money and the prompt printing of new notes, together with the recall of all old notes of the same issue as those stolen. Eventually, three men were convicted. The Bank recovered about 4/5 of the stolen money.

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The Bank weathered another very interesting currency crisis caused directly by the discovery of gold in California, in 1848, when the decline in value of that metal reached the point that the gold dollar became of less value than the silver dollar.

As evidence of the sound leadership of this versatile man and

his Board of Directors: on May 13, 1853, the Cashier was directed to sell the silver coin on hand. Also, in 1853, we note that, as of April 1, the deposits of this Bank became so large that it became necessary to decline to receive any more, in order to avoid a violation of the restrictions imposed by the new Charter of 1837. In 1854, "in consequence of the largely increased business of the Institution within the last two years, as well as the enhanced prices of all the necessaries of life," the salaries of the bank officers were materially increased. In 1855, the Bank built a house on its lot, in the rear of the banking house.

For the foregoing information regarding the banking activities, your essayist has quoted freely from the pamphlet "*First Hundred Years of The National Bank of Chester County*," compiled by the late Professor Smith Burnham, in 1914.

In analyzing the growth and development of a town, county, State, or nation during a given period of time, it is pertinent to study various opinions of contemporary commentators regarding it. You will recall that the hostility of the citizens of Chester, the county seat, or capital of the original Chester County, was not only vehement but actually involved bloodshed, in 1799. Was their indignation at the division of the county and the establishment of a new county seat justified by subsequent events?

In the Year 1812, just thirteen years after the erection of the new county and the establishment of West Chester as county seat of justice, we find the following entry in "*Brookes' General Gazetteer*":

"*West Chester*, a post town, the capital of Chester County, 25 miles W. of Philadelphia, containing about 300 inhabitants. It was divided from Delaware County, and erected into a separate jurisdiction Sept. 26, 1789."

Contrast this with the entry relative to what now is the great City of Chester:

"*Chester* (originally called *Upland*), a post town, and the capital of Delaware County, Pennsylvania; seated on the W. side of the

river Delaware, 15 miles below Philadelphia, and 13 NE of Wilmington. This is a very ancient town; was the seat of the first Legislature after the arrival of William Penn; *but has long been stationary in point of growth.*"

In view of the size and industrial importance of the City of Chester today, the comments of "*Brookes' General Gazetteer*" are not without amusement.

It is interesting to note the fact that although the terrible "Panic of 1857" probably taxed the resources of the West Chester bank to the very utmost, under the leadership of Dr. William Darlington it weathered the storm admirably. On September 15th of that year, it followed the example of the Philadelphia banks in suspending temporarily the payment of its liabilities in specie. However, by November 10, 1857, specie payment was resumed, as provided by an Act of the Pennsylvania Assembly. As a matter of fact, this bank never passed the payment of a semi-annual dividend, even during this financial crisis.

The influence of Dr. Darlington as President of The Bank of Chester County is very apparent when, in 1861, at the outbreak of the War Between the States, the Bank purchased ten pistols, "to be placed in the hands of such persons as Capt. Apple, Chief of Police, shall designate." A few days later, the Bank purchased twenty-five rifles for the use of "The Home Guards." Just what the pacifistic members of The Society of Friends felt about these warlike demonstrations is not a matter of record. It is possible that they fully anticipated something of this sort under the presidency of a man who had commanded a battalion of infantry during the War of 1812. It is not apparent, however, that the protagonists of a "love thy enemy" policy showed any tendency to transfer their accounts to a more friendly institution. Far from it!

Actually, records show that, in June 1861, the Bank *invested* $10,000 in the War Loan of the State of Pennsylvania; and, in

1863, by the request of the Governor, it promptly loaned the State its proportion of money to pay the militia to stop the impending invasion of Pennsylvania by the Confederate forces under General Robert E. Lee.

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It would be interesting to continue the story of the growth and development of this splendid banking institution after the close of the War Between the States; but, as Dr. William Darlington passed on at that time, it is well for us to leave the subject of banking, and to discuss other facets of the character and career of this unusual man who had so much to do with the national and even international fame of Chester County:

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We find that Dr. William Darlington was a Canal Commissioner of Pennsylvania. When it is recalled that, prior to and even after the establishment of railroads as a means of transportation, the canal system was vitally important to the opening up of trade with the western States and territories, it is significant that Dr. Darlington would be chosen as a member of this Commission. Obviously, it meant that some of the funds of his bank would be invested in bonds of accredited canal companies. No doubt they were—highly profitably, too.

Similarly, we note that Dr. Darlington became convinced of the brilliant future of railroads, which then were in their infancy. At first glance, this might seem like disloyalty to his first love, the "Canal System," for we find that he was elected the first President of The West Chester Railroad, which was opened from West Chester to Intersection, now the town of Malvern, in 1832, establishing connection with the new Philadelphia & Columbia Railroad.

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The possible charge of disloyalty is dismissed instantly when we note what followed as a result of Dr. Darlington's sympathetic attitude toward rail transportation: His beloved Bank was planning a new and really palatial building, designed by the then famous Thomas U. Walter, Architect of the U.S. Senate and

House of Representatives buildings in Washington, and of the Dome of the Capitol itself. The new bank was to be built of real Chester County marble, mined from the quarries of John R. Thomas of Whitford, a member of the Board of Directors of the Bank. How appropriate it seems that The Philadelphia & Columbia Railroad would build a special spur from Whiteland, near the quarries, to Kirkland, a whistle-stop on The West Chester Railroad for the express purpose of transporting the marble blocks to the new edifice. Just about everybody was made happy, including The First Presbyterian Church members, and those concerned with the erection of the new Memorial Hall, now the home of The Chester County Historical Society. These took advantage of the transportation of marble by rail instead of by ox-teams; and all three buildings stand today as monuments to the sagacity and farvision of Dr. William Darlington. It especially is fitting that The Chester County Historical Society should now occupy one of these buildings, since within its fireproof vaults are housed the personal records and correspondence of this great man.

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At this point, your speaker asks indulgence of this distinguished group for bringing to your attention an incident in Chester County history which, while it occurred nearly ten years after the death of the man whose memory we are honoring on this Sesqui-Centennial of West Chester and the present Chester County, is, nevertheless, directly concerned with the success of Dr. Darlington in establishing the Town of West Chester permanently as the Seat of Justice of the County. I refer to the famous Goss-Udderzook murder case, of the early *'seventies*, which not only hit several high spots in criminology, but also was directly responsible for many important changes in the procedures of practically all of the large insurance companies of the present day. In reviewing the macabre details of this extraordinary case, one cannot but be impressed by the probability that, had he been living at the time, Dr. Darlington would have followed the trial with the intense enthusiasm of a true scientist, as well as with the personal interest of one who was, more than any other individual, responsible for providing the educational facilities for the distinguished leaders

of bench and bar of Chester County who conducted the trial so successfully.

The principal characters in this drama were two men who had been friends for many years. While neither of them appears to have been a member of The Society of Friends, yet the mother of William E. Udderzook was a member of a well-known Quaker family; and was living in the little hamlet of Jennersville, in southern Chester Country. Udderzook himself had served in the Union Army as First Sergeant in the 2nd Eastern Shore Regiment, Maryland Volunteers. Winfield Scott Goss, his associate, had a rather hazy record as an inventor of machinery, and was living with his wife in Baltimore. He had set up a small workshop in an empty lot on the outskirts of that city. He had the reputation of being a heavy imbiber of liquor, whereas Udderzook was a staunch teetotaler.

Briefly, these two friends evolved a rather interesting scheme whereby several insurance policies were taken out on the life of Winfield Scott Goss in a total amount of about $25,000, on which the annual premiums were $443.95. For a man earning so little annually to have taken out such a generous coverage was at least unusual; but there seems to have been no question raised by any of the insurance companies.

On the night of February 2nd, 1872, just eight days after the issuance of the last policy, the small shack known to have been occupied by Goss as a workshop, was burned to the ground. Udderzook and another man namd Engle had left Goss in this shack a short time before the fire was discovered. At the actual time of the fire they were visiting a neighbor. Udderzook was voluble in his expression of grief at the tragedy which had occurred; for he seemed convinced that his friend had perished in the flames. However, he showed marked reluctance to join in the efforts of the fire-fighters; and was definitely upset because an intrepid volunteer braved the flames, and, with an ice-hook, dragged out a half-consumed body.

Mrs. Goss, as beneficiary, applied for the insurance. However, the companies had by this time become suspicious, and re-

fused payment. In August 1872, Mrs. Goss brought suit against them in Baltimore; but the companies were adroit enough to have the actions transferred, in accordance with the provisions of an Act of Congress, to the Circuit Court of the United States, where they were entered in September. The test case of one of the companies was brought to court, in May 1873.

At the trial, it became apparent from the testimony that Udderzook purchased a gallon of kerosene before going to the shack; that the body of the victim had been allowed to remain on the ground for several hours untended before it finally was claimed by the family; that examination of the corpse showed many missing and diseased teeth, whereas Goss had been rather distinguished for his perfect molars, and, finally, that on the day before the fire, W. S. Goss and William E. Udderzook had transported by express wagon a large oblong box from the center of the city to the shack, stating that it contained machinery. No machinery had been found in the ruins, however.

The verdict was rendered in favor of Mrs. Goss, in spite of evidence of fraud. The insurance company moved for a new trial.

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Court action was still pending when, on July 12, 1873, the *Daily Local News,* of West Chester, published the first account of the finding of the body of a murdered man in the woods between Penningtonville and Christiana. The location of this body had been determined by the presence of buzzards in unusual numbers.

The corpse was almost immediately identified as that of a stranger who had been seen in the vicinity of Jennersville, and who had registered under the name of A. C. Wilson at Jefferis' Hotel, about two weeks previously. It also was recalled that this man had been visited by William E. Udderzook, who had lived as a boy in the neighborhood. Udderzook's own brother-in-law came forward on the witness stand and stated that he had been visited by Udderzook on June 30th, and certain shady propositions had been made to him regarding the possible "drugging of a man at the hotel." Udderzook had stressed the fact that the man was a heavy

drinker, and had the sum of $1000, from which he could be separated rather easily. In the light of this testimony, Udderzook was placed under arrest.

The evidence presented at the trial was overwhelming, although in reality largely circumstantial. It was in this trial that photographic evidence was admitted for one of the first, if not the first, time in criminal jurisprudence. Of greater importance, however, was the extraordinary decorum in the court-room during the trial; and the fact that on the ninth ballot the verdict of the jury was unanimously "GUILTY." Udderzook was sentenced to death by hanging; and paid the penalty November 11, 1874, in the county jail at West Chester.

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It, perhaps, is fitting that we should have covered a little more than *the life span* of the individual to whom the Town of West Chester and the present Chester County owe such a debt of gratitude. We might go farther, and state that the influence of Dr. William Darlington is still being felt, eighty-six years after his death, in view of the steady development of the very things in which he was most interested—Medicine, Banking, Education, Law, Transportation, Government, and Science. It is this very development during over one hundred and fifty years to which we point with the most pride, on such a happy occasion as this. However, there remains one facet of this man's character which we have reserved for our consideration until the very last; not because it was the least in importance, but rather because it presents *an idealism* which will endure indefinitely, and will cast its radiant influence upon succeeding generations of citizens. This is *the personality* of the man himself.

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Above all, we find that Dr. William Darlington was a gentleman of refined tastes; of scrupulous moral integrity; of profound reverence for religion in the broad sense of the word; of deep and unselfish devotion to his fellow citizens, and of almost idolatrous worship of the beautiful bounties which Mother Nature had showered upon his beloved Chester County. All of these characteristics of

his personality were enhanced by his simplicity of tastes, and his abhorrence of what we call "show" of any kind.

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It might have seemed fitting that, after his death in 1863, some pretentious monument should be erected, setting forth the accomplishments of his active career. It is probable that the grateful citizens of West Chester and Chester County would have contributed generously toward such a memorial.

❦ ❦

On the other hand, how extraordinarily appropriate it seems that his body was interred, without pomp or ceremony, in the beautiful cemetery of Oaklands; and that, above his grave, should have been erected a simple tombstone, upon which is the epitaph written *by him* prior to his death:

❦ ❦

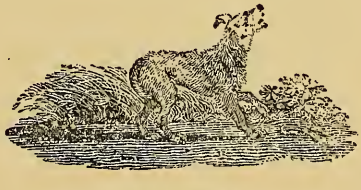
"Plantae Cestriensis Quas Delixit Atque Illustravit, Super Tumulus Eijus Semper Floreant," which may be translated: "*The plants of Chester which he loved and described, may they blossom forever above his grave.*"

The Chester County Medical Society, which he founded, established a permanent fund, many years ago, for the express purpose of insuring the fulfilment of this, the last wish of this great American.

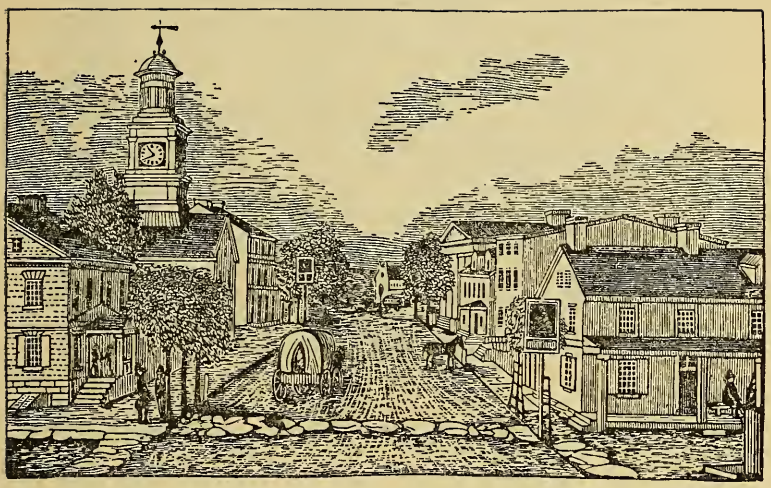
The End

"Actorum Memores simul affectamus Agenda!"

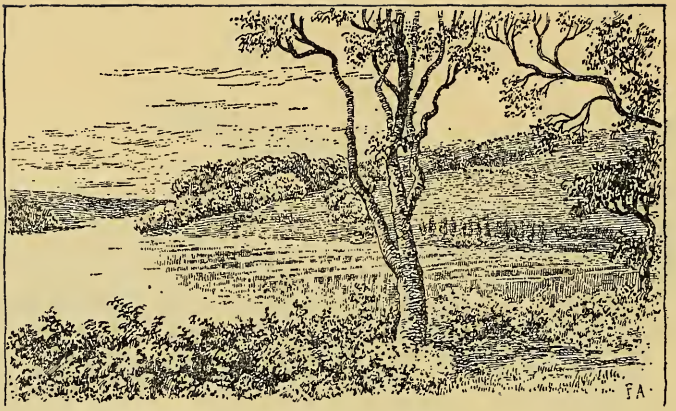
❦



THIS NEWCOMEN ADDRESS, *dealing with* CHESTER COUNTY *in eastern Pennsylvania and with the life and extraordinarily diversified achievements of William Darlington (1782-1863), was delivered at the "1949 Chester County Luncheon" of The Newcomen Society of England, held at West Chester Golf & Country Club, at West Chester, Chester County, Pennsylvania, U.S.A., on September 14, 1949, in honor of the 150th Anniversary (1799-1949) of the founding of West Chester, county seat of Chester County. The luncheon was presided over by* ROBERT W. WOLCOTT, *President, Lukens Steel Company, Coatesville; Chairman, Chester County Committee, in American Newcomen.* DR. PLEASANTS, *the guest of honor, was introduced by the* SENIOR VICE-PRESIDENT FOR NORTH AMERICA, *in this international Society whose headquarters are at London.*



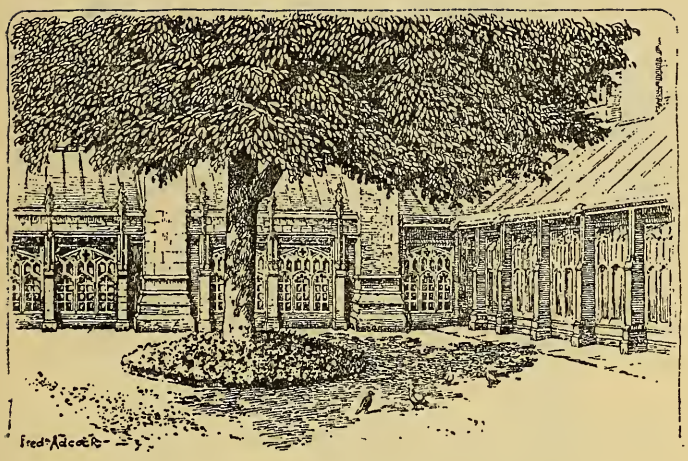
This picturesque street scene of Old West Chester, *in 1837, shows High and Market Streets, and is reproduced through courtesy of* National Bank of Chester County & Trust Company, *established in 1814, whose President,* William B. Brosius, *is a Vice-Chairman of the Chester County Committee, in American Newcomen.*



"William Darlington was born in 1782; hence was a little too young to serve in the American Revolution. This was unfortunate, and was probably a great disappointment to him in view of the fact that he had an active part in nearly every other incident of major proportions during the period of greater importance in the development of West Chester, Chester County, and the United States of America.

"He was born and raised on his father's farm. He was birthright Pennsylvania. This in itself stamps him as being above-the-average hinterland bucolic; but he went still farther and was directly responsible for the organization of the Chester County Medical Society of which he was the first President, in the Year 1828."

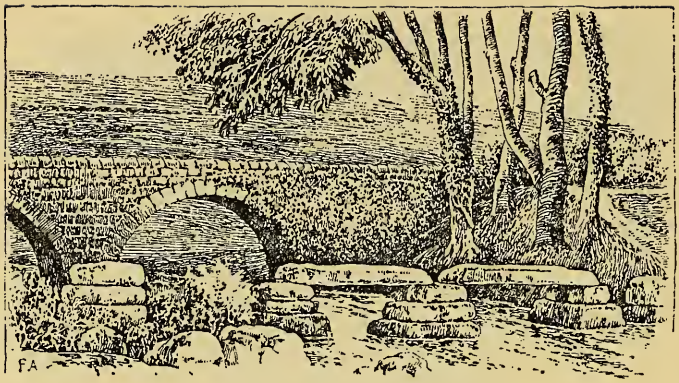
—Henry Pleasants, Jr.



"Lest time hang too heavily on his hands from a scientific standpoint, Dr. Darlington served as a trustee of the West Chester Academy for over fifty years, and collaborated with his friend, David Townsend, in developing the latter's famous Herbarium, which won him international fame and the distinction of having a genus of plant, *Townsendia Servicea*, named in his honor by Sir William Jackson Hooker, and described in Hooker's '*Flora of North America.*'

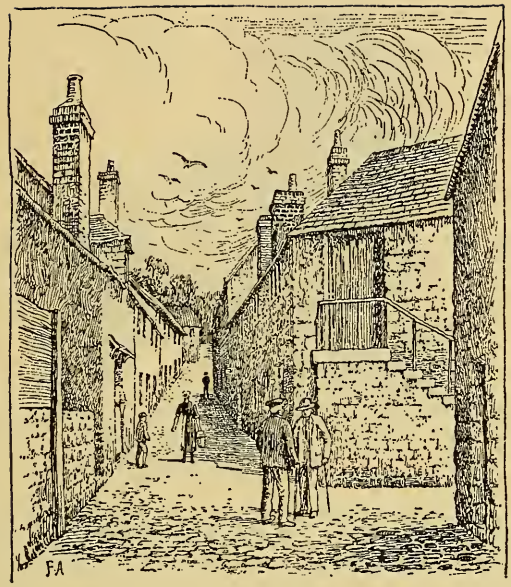
"In this connection, it is important to call attention to the fact that William Darlington's own books, '*Flora Cestrica*' and '*Florula Cestrica*' are to this day classics in the field of Botany."

—Henry Pleasants, Jr.



"One would suppose that the active practice of Medicine, coupled with the scientific hobby of Botany, would have been sufficient to satisfy the active mind of a Chester County farm lad of the early part of this century. However, when the invasion of his beloved homeland by the British seemed imminent, in 1815, we find William Darlington casting aside his Quaker pacifistic principles and organizing a battalion of militia, of which he became the commanding officer as major—not in a medical capacity either, but as an infantry officer."

—Henry Pleasants, Jr.



"We find that Dr. William Darlington was a gentleman of refined tastes; of scrupulous moral integrity; of profound reverence for religion in the broad sense of the word; of deep and unselfish devotion to his fellow citizens, and of almost idolatrous worship of the beautiful bounties which Mother Nature had showered upon his beloved Chester County. All of these characteristics of his personality were enhanced by his simplicity of tastes, and his abhorrence of what we call 'show' of any kind."

—Henry Pleasants, Jr.

American Newcomen, *interested always in a recital of the doings and achievements of leaders who have contributed to the economic and material progress of a community, whether in the United States of America or in Canada, takes satisfaction in the present colorful Newcomen manuscript. Typical of early 19th Century life and customs and ideals and struggles in the rich agricultural countryside of America, this is the story of a man whose surroundings boasted tilled fields, well-kept barns, herds and poultry, silos and corncribs, and every other familiar symbol of a life lived "close to the land." His beloved hills and valleys had happy bearing upon his outlook and thinking. Horses and dogs and fox hunting gave their wholesome influence—in the great outdoors. Here indeed the husbandman came into his own! American character became strong through such as these. Chester County, with its exceeding rare beauty, stands truly a symbol of God-given inspiration for those whose vision and determination and hard work and Faith have brought both material and spiritual blessings upon its wide rolling countryside!*

THE NEWCOMEN SOCIETY OF ENGLAND

IN NORTH AMERICA

BROADLY, *this British Society has as its purposes: to increase an appreciation of American-British traditions and ideals in the Arts and Sciences, especially in that bond of sympathy for the cultural and spiritual forces which are common to the two countries; and, secondly, to serve as another link in the intimately friendly relations existing between Great Britain and the United States of America.*

The Newcomen Society centers its work in the history of Material Civilization, the history of: Industry, Invention, Engineering, Transportation, the Utilities, Communication, Mining, Agriculture, Finance, Banking, Economics, Education, and the Law—these and correlated historical fields. In short, the background of those factors which have contributed or are contributing to the progress of Mankind.

The best of British traditions, British scholarship, and British ideals stand back of this honorary society, whose headquarters are at London. Its name perpetuates the life and work of Thomas Newcomen (1663-1729), the British pioneer, whose valuable contributions in improvements to the newly invented Steam Engine brought him lasting fame in the field of the Mechanic Arts. The Newcomen Engines, whose period of use was from 1712 to 1775, paved a way for the Industrial Revolution. Newcomen's inventive genius preceded by more than 50 years the brilliant work in Steam by the world-famous James Watt.

"The roads you travel so briskly
lead out of dim antiquity,
and you study the past chiefly because
of its bearing on the living present
and its promise for the future."

—LIEUTENANT GENERAL JAMES G. HARBORD,
K.C.M.G., D.S.M., LL.D., U.S. ARMY (RET.)

(1866-1947)

Late American Member of Council at London
The Newcomen Society of England

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